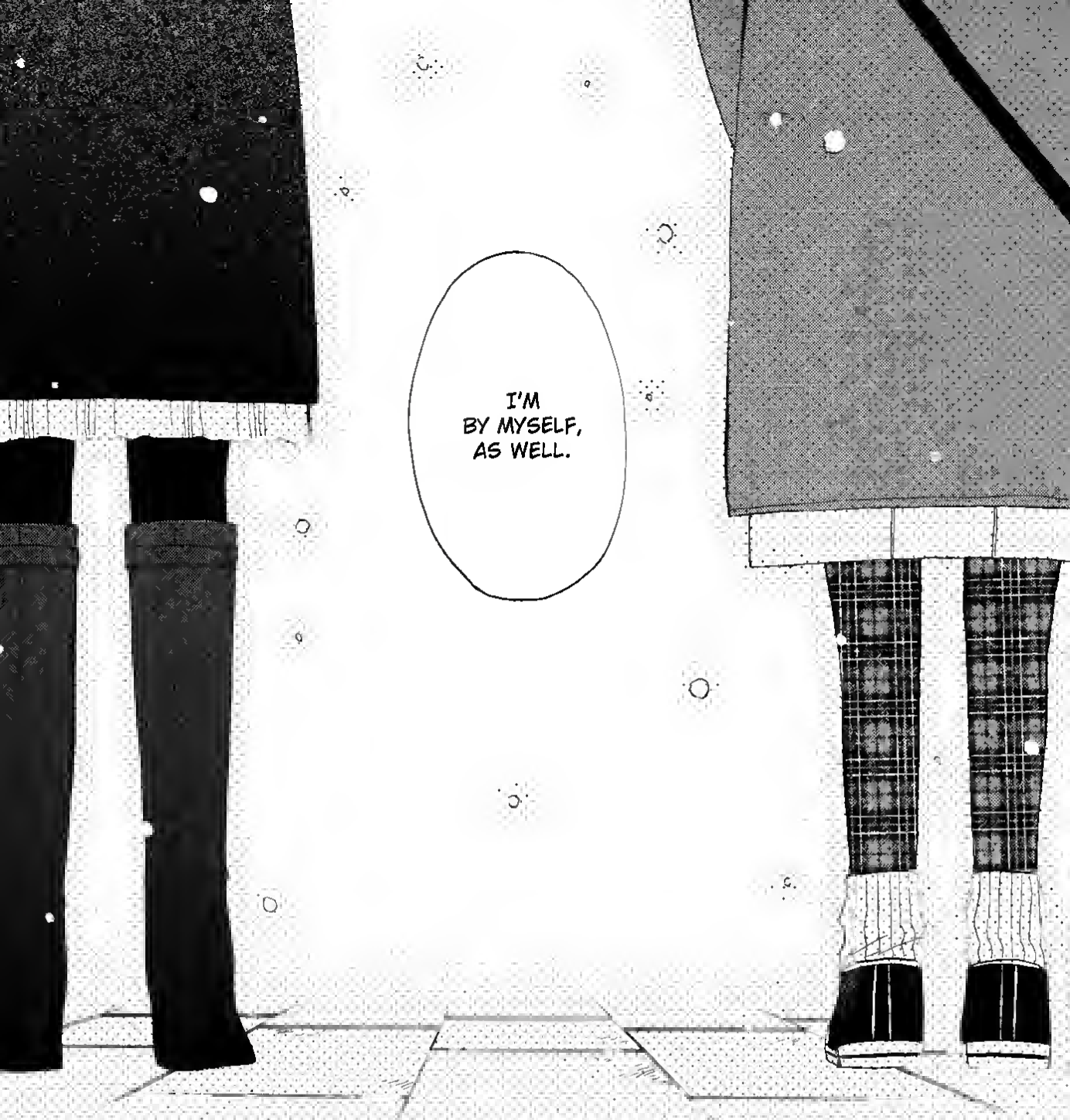
CLANG CLANGGGG
福引会場
コチラ
CLANG CLANGGGG
EVERY-
BODY'S...

HAVING FUN, HUH.
YOU'RE BY YOURSELF?
...THIS IS QUITE A COINCIDENCE.



十二月のスノウメルト

December's melting snow

コバノ

At the sound of the beep, please record your message.
Beeeeep
...THIS IS KIYOI.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
...
YOUR DAUGHTER IS CURRENTLY IN MY CARE.
MERRY CHRISTMAS.
Click

Wow...
Merry Christ
SNEAK
SNEAK
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SNOW WILL GET INTO THE BOX.
TRY TO RESTRAIN YOURSELF UNTIL WE GET TO THE HOUSE.
Y-YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT...SINCE WE'RE HAVING A PARTY, HUH!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL. IT'S NOT CHRISTMAS WITHOUT A CAKE, RIGHT?
HEY... W-WAS IT REALLY OKAY? BUYING THIS...

srab
AH!
...I'M GLAD YOU'RE HAPPY. LET'S GO.
Eh heh!
fwip
srab
srab
fwip

HMMM...IS IT BECAUSE KIYO-CHAN'S A STRANGER, I WONDER?
I GOT IT... I GOT IT, ALL RIGHT?
MAN, WHAT A SPOILED KID...
P-f-fh
P-f-fh
haah
AH, RIGHT! UM, I'M TOMO! MY NAME IS "TOMO"...
...I KNOW.
OH, YEAH... SINCE YOU'RE MOMMY'S FRIEND...
THANK YOU FOR TODAY, KIYO-CHAN!

KIYO-CHAN,
DO YOU LIKE SNOW?
...I'VE NEVER TOUCHED IT BEFORE,
BUT I HATE WHEN IT'S COLD OUTSIDE. SO I'D PROBABLY HATE SNOW, TOO.
OH, MY. SINCE YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW, I THOUGHT SURELY...
...I HATE IT. ...PROBABLY.
KIYO-CHAN, YOU SEEM TO HATE JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING, HUH!
AH! WELL, WHAT ABOUT ME? DO YOU LIKE ME? OR DO YOU HATE ME?
E...EHH? THAT'S-
I MEAN, I...
I do- like you...

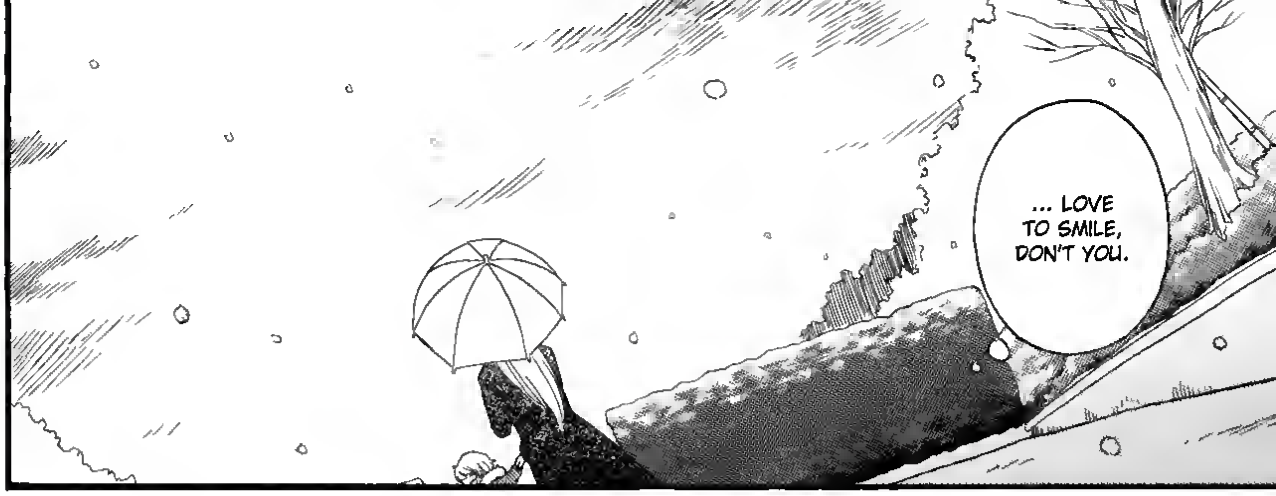
EH?
IF WE GO OUT NOW, WE CAN SEE THEM DECORATING THE TREE!
ALL RIGHT! WHY DON'T WE TRY GOING OUTSIDE, AFTER ALL?
bundle
bundle
Wh-
Hold-
AND THE DOCTOR SAID YOU NEED TO GET OUT ONCE IN A WHILE TO BREATHE SOME FRESH AIR.
GA-SQUEEZE
HEH HEH HEH!
THANK YOU! I LOVE YOU TOO, KIYO-CHAN!
!
WHATEVER IT IS, WHY DON'T WE HAVE A GO AT IT TOGETHER?
YOU JUST NEED TO GET TO KNOW THINGS BETTER.
ONCE YOU DO, I'M SURE YOUR LOVE WILL SPREAD OUT TO ALL SORTS OF NEW PLACES, KIYO-CHAN!

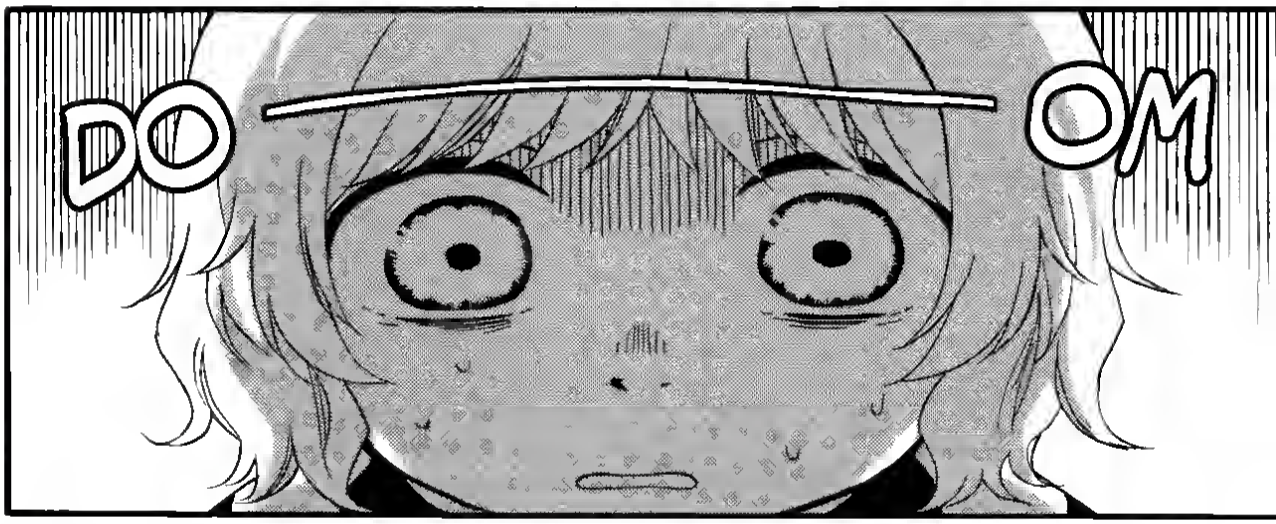
WHOA...!

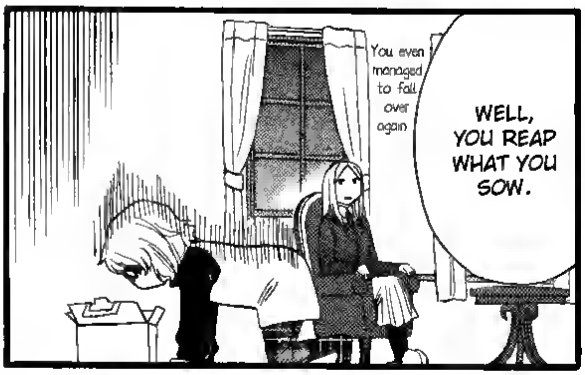
AMAZING! AWESOMELY AMAZING!
Rush
...
AMAZIN-
SLIP
GYARGH!
Bonk!
...ARE YOU OK?
Phewww...!
...
SO THE CASTLE ON TOP OF THIS HILL WAS KIYO-CHAN'S HOUSE!
THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF RUMORS ABOUT IT AT SCHOOL! 'CAUSE THEY SAID, NOBODY'S EVER SEEN ANYONE LIVING HERE!
THIS IS A VACATION HOME.
I'VE LIVED OVERSEAS FOR A WHILE, SO IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I CAME HERE, TOO.

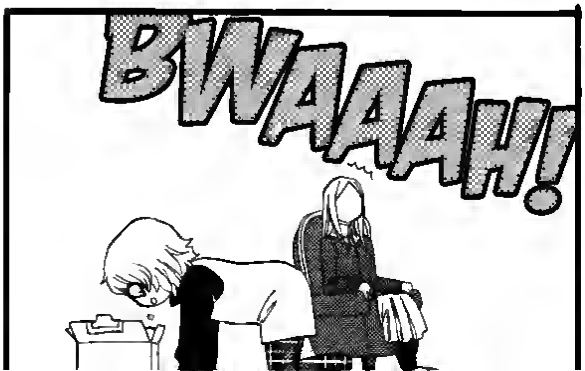
squeeze
OOF!
FOOMP
POINTLESSLY HUGE, WITH NOTHING TO DO AT ALL... I'VE ALWAYS HATED IT.
ZAAAAM
I'VE TAKEN A PARTICULARLY KEEN INTEREST IN THE MAGICAL-LOOKING ZONE OVER THERE!
NO WAY.
HEY! LET'S GO EXPLORING!
THERE'S NO WAY THERE'S NOT ANYTHING TO DO!
NOT IN A WONDERFUL HOUSE LIKE THIS!
WHAAAT!?
I HATE THE COLD.
yank
yank
BUT, BUT...
I AM THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE. NOW HURRY UP AND GET INSIDE.
NEVER! NEVER!
KIYO-CHAN, YOU'RE A BIG SPOILSPORT! WE NEED TO GO O-WHOA!

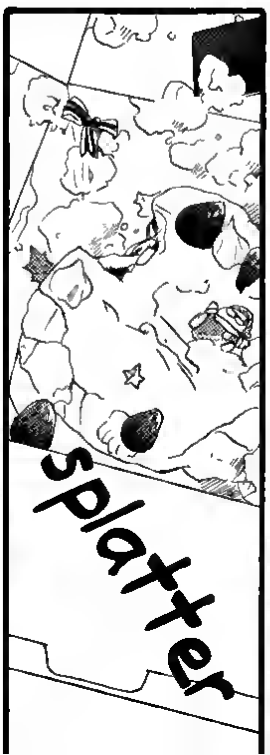
!
HURRY! COME ON, COME ON!
HUH!? A SQUIRREL? THERE'S NO WAY, THIS LATE IN WINTER-
A SQUIRREL! THERE WAS JUST A SQUIRREL!


... LOVE TO SMILE, DON'T YOU.


DO
OM

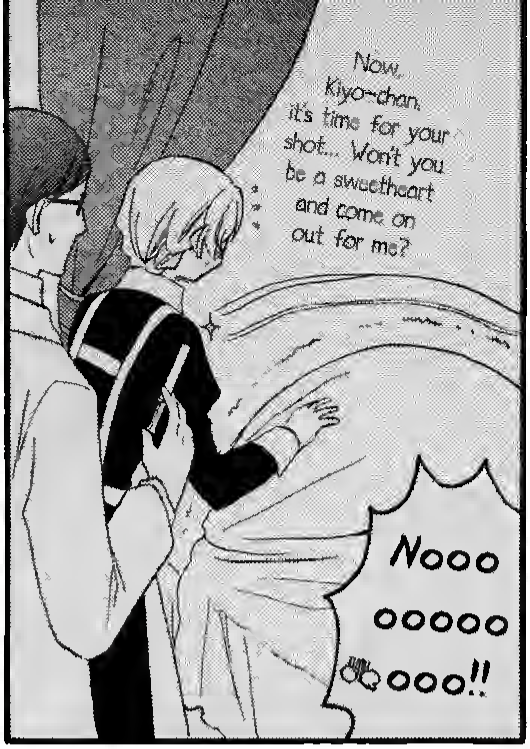

You even managed to fall over again
WELL, YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.


BWAAAH!

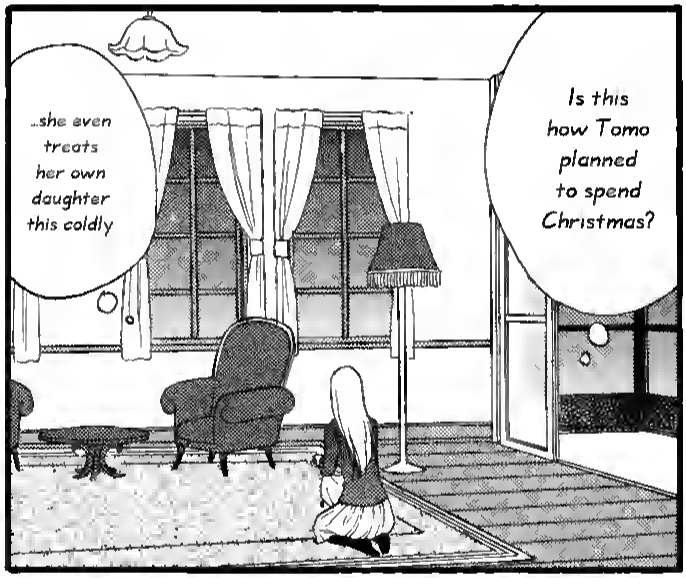

splatter

WHA- I- I CAN JUST BUY ANOTHER ONE! IT'S NOT... WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT CHEER FROM JUST NOW??
Puddle of tears
AND STOP KOWTOWING!!
I'M SO SORRYYYY!!
drip
drip
I'M...
OK, OK! YOU'RE MAKING A SODDEN MESS OF YOURSELF, SO PLEASE JUST GET IN THE BATH!
push
push
push
push
Waahhhhhhh!!
AND IT WAS KIYO-CHAN'S PRESENT FOR ME, AND YET... I... I...!
hic
sob
B-BUT... BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A PRETTY CHRIST-MAS CAKE BEFORE...
Was I really like that ot some paint?
Gaad grief I dan't get kids at all One mament she was all smiles, and naw..
fw-tmp

Yeah. I guess I basically was..


Now, Kiyo-chan, it's time for your shot... Won't you be a sweetheart and come on out for me?
Nooo oooooo ooo!!

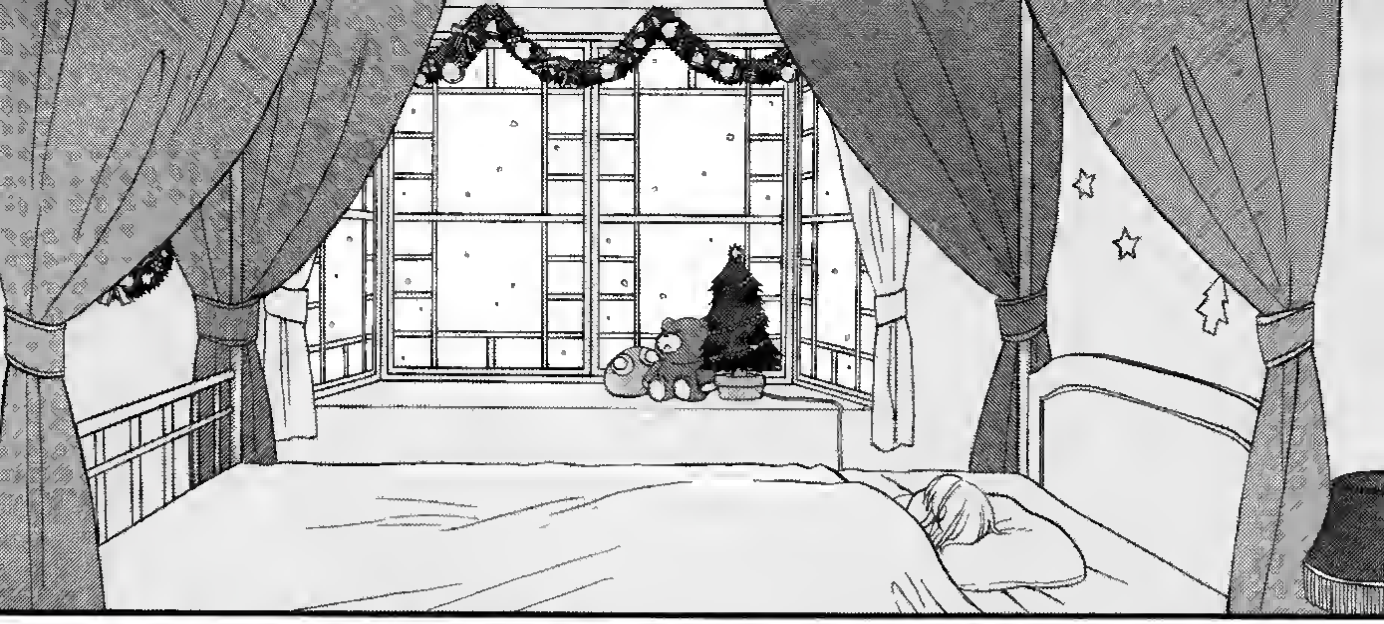
rustle

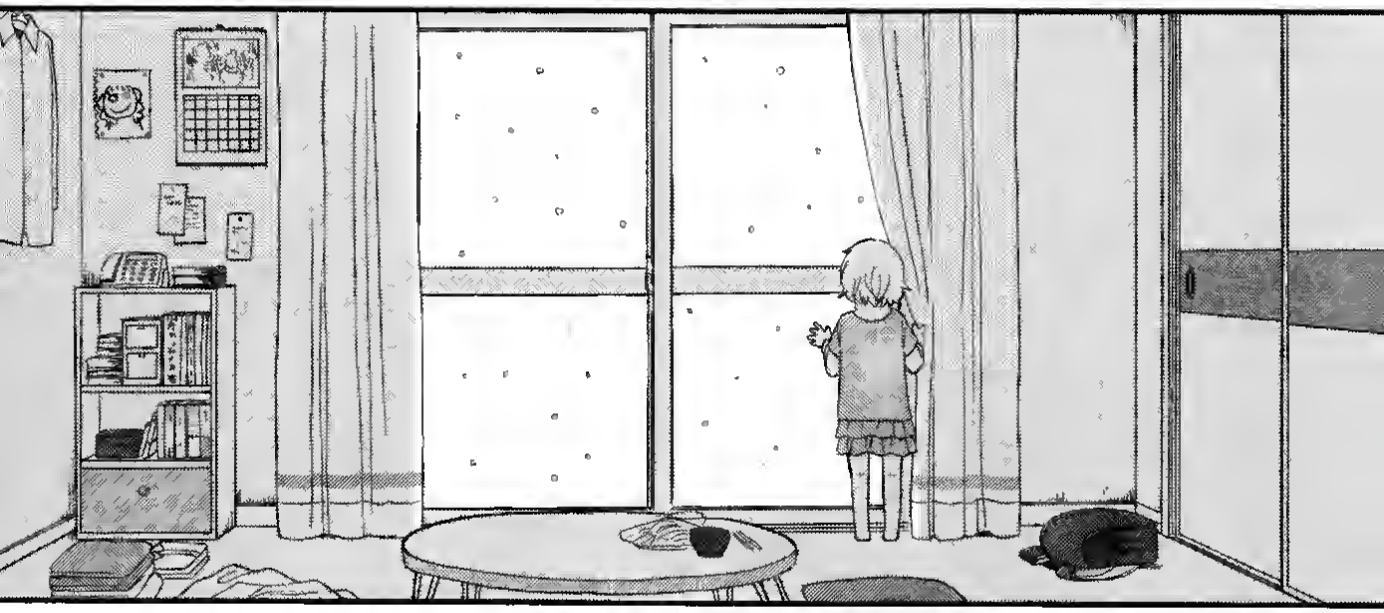

..she even treats her own daughter this coldly
Is this how Tomo planned to spend Christmas?

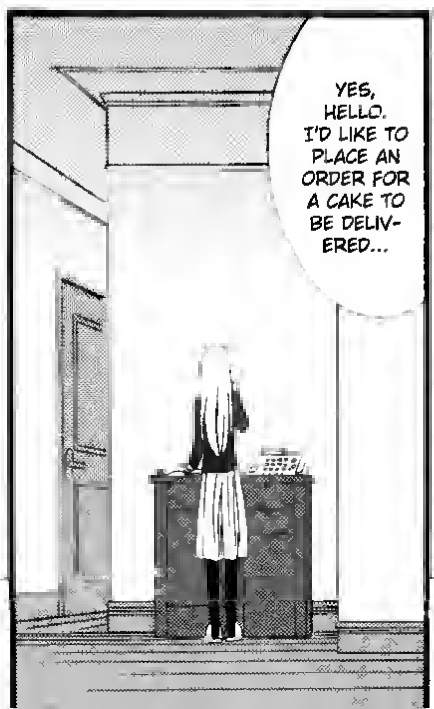
Milk, and pancake mix..

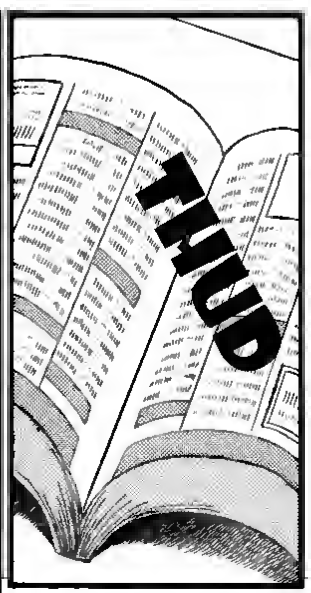
HOW ABOUT WE HAVE A PARTY!

ON CHRISTMAS,





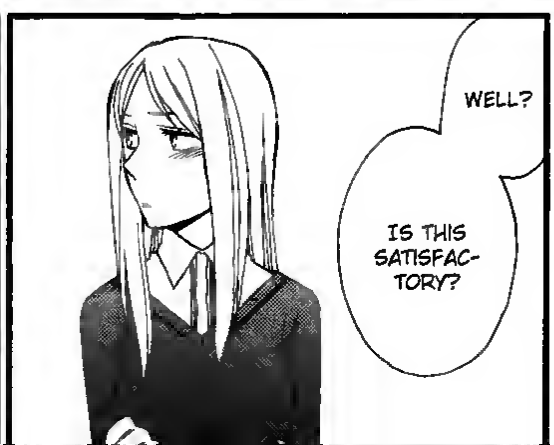

YES, HELLO. I'D LIKE TO PLACE AN ORDER FOR A CAKE TO BE DELIV-ERED...

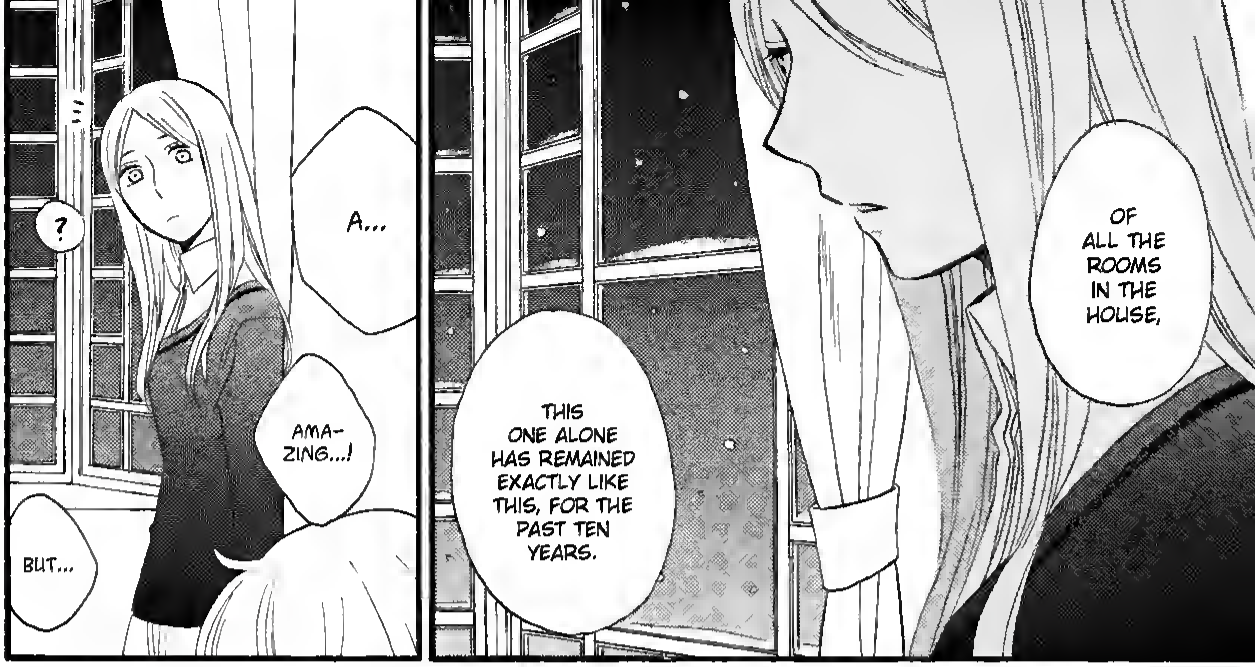

THUD

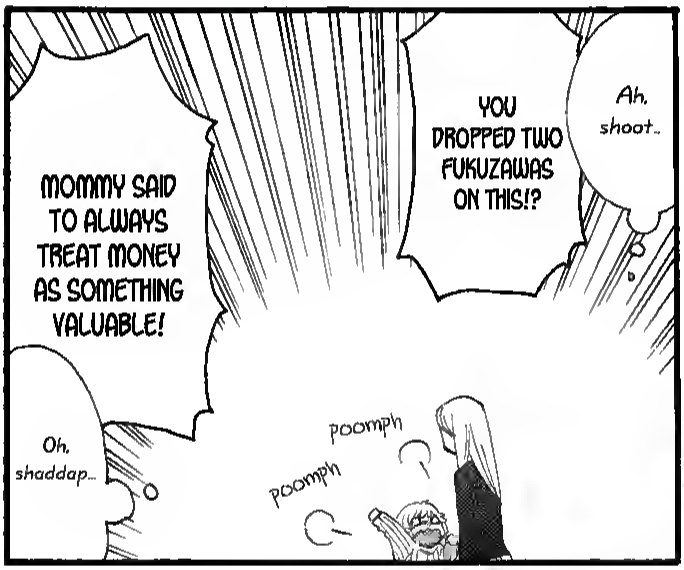
GRAB
K-KIYO-CHAN!?
A-A-A-A-ARE YOU ANGRY, BY ANY CHANCE?
I- I WON'T CRY ANYMORE, OK!?
I'LL REFLECT ON WHAT I DID!
AND I'LL BEHAVE MYSELF THE REST OF THE NI-
Open

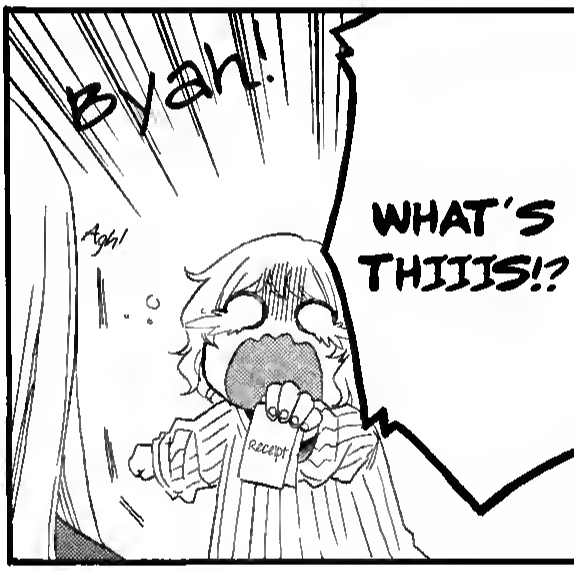
WOW...!

—AS FOR THE DECORATIONS...
A-AMAZING... JUST IN THE TIME I WAS IN THE BATH, ALL THIS...
EVEN ALL THESE DECORATIONS! HOW!?


WELL?
IS THIS SATISFACTORY?

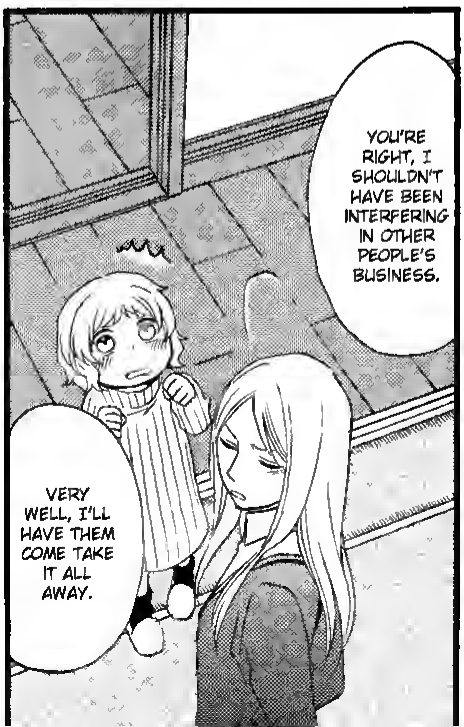

OF ALL THE ROOMS IN THE HOUSE,
THIS ONE ALONE HAS REMAINED EXACTLY LIKE THIS, FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.
A...
AMA-ZING...!
BUT...
?


MOMMY SAID TO ALWAYS TREAT MONEY AS SOMETHING VALUABLE!
YOU DROPPED TWO FUKUZAWAS ON THIS!?
Ah, shoot..
Oh, shaddap...
poomph
poomph


Byah!
WHAT'S THIIS!?
Agh!
Receipt

...

...


YOU'RE RIGHT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN INTERFERING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS.
VERY WELL, I'LL HAVE THEM COME TAKE IT ALL AWAY.

Grrr

I- I'M SORRY.
... YOU DID THIS ALL FOR MY SAKE, RIGHT?
clench
MONEY IS VALUABLE, BUT... YOU MADE ME REALLY, REALLY HAPPY.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
Squeeeeeze
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HAD A CHRISTMAS LIKE THIS!

IF ONLY MOMMY COULD BE HERE TOO!
MOMMY'S ALWAYS REALLY, REALLY BUSY WITH WORK,
SO SHE CAN'T TAKE A BREAK, EVEN ON CHRIST-MAS...
BUT YOU KNOW, WE ALWAYS HAVE A PARTY AFTERWARDS!

SHE CAN'T BUY A WONDERFUL CAKE LIKE THIS ONE,
BUT WE MAKE PANCAKES TOGETHER, EVERY YEAR...!
THAT'S THE PROMISE SHE MADE TO ME!
YOU'VE NEVER HAD A CHRISTMAS PARTY BEFORE?
...
...FATHER'S ALWAYS TOO BUSY.
OH, MY! THAT WON'T DO AT ALL!

SO THEN, THIS YEAR WILL BE YOUR VERY FIRST ONE!
In the end.
she was gone before Christmas ever came
Yet I still clung to the hope. that someday someday...
Bye-bye, Tomo
I'll be back soon, OK?
Just like a freaking idiot.

Stubbornly dragging my childhood memories along with me.
selfishly deciding to come visit getting jealous, getting offended
Even though you said you loved me.
Even though you said we'd stay together.
But of course she would forget me, after ten years.
And then, even though you never showed up...
What are you doing, in a place so unknown to me...

... Looking so blissfully happy?
drip

...WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
...KIYO-CHAN?
...
KIYO-CHAN?
ARE YOU LONELY?
SHE SAID THAT THE GIRL ALWAYS HAD A LONELY LOOK ON HER FACE...
MOMMY, SHE USED TO TAKE CARE OF A GIRL WHO WAS SICK...
...THE REST OF THAT STORY... I WAS TELLING BEFORE?

THEY BECAME GOOD FRIENDS, MOMMY AND HER.
THEY PROMISED TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS PARTY TO-GETHER,
BUT ONE DAY BEFORE IT, THAT GIRL CAUGHT A FEVER BECAUSE OF MOMMY.
SHE ALWAYS FELT SO BAD FOR BREAKING THEIR PROMISE.
SHE WASN'T ALLOWED TO SEE THAT GIRL ANYMORE AT ALL...
THEY GOT REALLY, REALLY MAD AT MOMMY.
AND THAT'S WHY I'M OK ON CHRISTMAS, EVEN IF I'M ALL ALONE.
THAT NO MATTER HOW LATE IT MAY BE, WE ABSOLUTELY, DEFINITELY WILL HAVE A PARTY EVERY YEAR.
SO MOMMY SAID...

I WAS A TINY BIT,
KIYO-CHAN, KEEP THIS A SECRET, OK?
BUT, YOU KNOW...
.....
SEEING ALL THE KIDS AROUND ME... AND HOW HAPPY THEY LOOKED.
REALLY JUST A TINY BIT, LONELY.
YOU'RE...

BY YOURSELF?
...THIS IS QUITE A COINCIDENCE. I'M BY MYSELF AS WELL.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME,
THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE ALL ALONE ON CHRISTMAS!
!
THAT'S WHY I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN YOU CAME AND SPOKE TO ME, KIYO-CHAN!
HUG

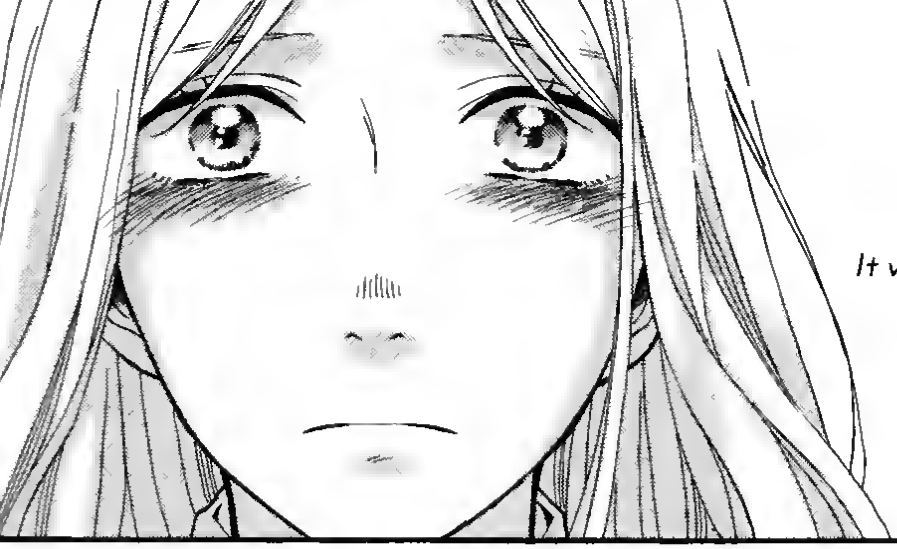
DID YOU NOT...
HAVE FUN TODAY, KIYO-CHAN? IS THAT WHY YOU'RE CRYING?
NO...
IT'S JUST BECAUSE I KNOW... THAT TOMORROW I'LL HAVE TO WAKE UP FROM THIS DREAM.
OH, THAT'S ALL?
DON'T WORRY! THIS ISN'T A DREAM!
pinch

HEY, KIYO-CHAN...
NEXT CHRISTMAS, AND THE CHRISTMAS AFTER THAT,
AND ALL THE CHRISTMASES AFTER THAT...
LET'S AAAAL-WAYS PLAY TOGETHER, OK?
YOU TWO REALLY ARE ALIKE, MOTHER AND DAUGHTER.
BEING USELESSLY HIGH-SPIRITED, ACTING RECK-LESSLY,
Sigh...

...CASUALLY MAKING PROMISES YOU CAN'T KEEP.
WELL,
Plop
YOUR FEELINGS ALONE ARE ENOUGH.
I WON'T BREAK IT!
Argh!
I MEAN IT! REALLY! AND MOMMY NEVER BROKE HER PROMISE TO ME, EITHER!
LISTEN, HAVE YOU HEARD THE PHRASE "WORDS ARE CHEAP"?
NOOGIE
NOOGIE
ARE YOU FEELING ALL BETTER NOW?
...HEY,
...LET'S HAVE A SNOWBALL FIGHT TOMORROW, OK?

I TOLD YOU, I HATE THE COLD.
...WELL,
I DON'T PARTICULARLY HATE SNOW, THOUGH.
12/24
Tomo
(no title)
Kiyo-chan invited me over, so I'm at her house :-)
Although, if this girl is there as well... I might be able to say it.
...However tomorrow,
I have to go get yelled at by your mother.

DING DONGG
DING DONGG
DING DONGG
...
...?
GRRR...
nub
nub
KA-CHIK
YES...?
WHO IS I-



It would be nice, to be able to soy it...

A "Merry Christmas", from the bottom of my heort.

END

December's Melting Snow

by Kikan

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